



**The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces
“Between the Lines Program: The Writing Experience” (Summer 2014)**



Application Deadline: February 14, 2014

In cooperation with the prestigious International Writing Program (IWP) and Iowa Young Writers Studio (IYWS), ECA's Cultural Programs Division is pleased to announce that the sixth session of Between the Lines (BTL) will take place June 21-July 5, 2014. This two-week cultural exchange program will host 12 writers ages 16-19 from Arabic-speaking countries of the Middle East and North Africa for a two-week residency at the University of Iowa. The students will be accompanied by 2 overseas teachers to be their chaperones, also from Arabic-speaking countries.

These young writers will be immersed in one of the premier creative writing environments of the United States as part of an exchange that will broaden and sharpen their writing skills, deepen their understanding of American society, and build bridges with young American writers who will participate in creative writing classes alongside the ECA-sponsored youth writers. Program activities will include writing workshops in English, Russian and Arabic, seminars on literary topics, cultural visits, and other local events. At the culmination of the program, the students' writings will be collected into a printed booklet to be used for educational purposes.

Application requirements for students:

- Students between the ages of 16 – 19 as of June 21, 2014
- A writing sample of 6-8 pages of prose and/or poetry in Arabic
- A writing sample of 6-8 pages of prose and/or poetry in English. School essays and other non-fiction writing will not be accepted.
- A brief one-paragraph statement of purpose in English describing why they are interested in participating in the BTL program.
- A writing sample of 2-5 pages of prose and/or poetry in either language in response to one of the following writing prompts:
 - One day, you (or your main character) sit down at your kitchen table only to find that there is someone already there. Who is sitting across from you? Why are they there? Write a short story or poem.

- Write a story or poem inspired by the following statement: “Searching for love is good, but finding love when you weren’t looking for it is better.”
- All writings must be 12-point font and have one-inch margins all around.
- Must not be a holder of an American passport nor a green card holder. Must be an East Jerusalem or Palestinian Authority citizen.
- Must be a resident at the time of application.
- Demonstrate an interest in and ability to write creatively (fiction and/or poetry)
- Fully engage their imaginations in a variety of class settings
- Confidently work alongside other BTL students in Arabic-language classes as well as American students in English-language classes
- Participants will be required to travel to IOWA on J-1 type of visa.

Application requirement for a Chaperone

- Each chaperone applicant must provide a resume or CV and a brief statement of purpose (both in English) describing the his/her proposed goals for the program and his/.her the participation would benefit the program.
- Must be between the ages of 25 and 40 as of June 21, 2014 and proficient in Arabic and English (reading, writing, and speaking).
- A teacher from the students' school who is interested in creative writing and has not had previous exposure to the United States.
- Fully participate in a formal English language program on creative writing teaching methods that will also include American teachers.
- Reliable, mature, and willing and able to take on the dual responsibilities of their own program and the overall duties of overseeing the students.
- Demonstrate experience working with young people, particularly students in the demographic (secondary school/college undergrad)
- Be able and willing to expand his or her teaching strategies/expertise by attending a week-long Iowa Summer Writing Festival class (presented at the University of Iowa)
- Be willing to assist BTL faculty and IWP staff with projects related to promoting creative writing and the teaching of creative writing in the Middle East
- Aspire to a literary career and/or a teaching career involving creative writing and/or literature.
- Participants will be required to travel to IOWA on J-1 type of visa.

Application Deadline and inquiries:

Please submit a copy of your passport, CV, and all required papers not later than **February 14th, 2014.**

Jerusalem and West Bank Applicants: Email exchanges@state.gov; call 02-622-7172 or (0545) 420 953 for more information.

Gaza Applicants: Email GazaExchanges@gmail.com; call 08-286-4623 for more information.